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U.S.S.N. 09/982,496
Filed October 18, 2001**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces prior versions of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A non-aqueous laminating ink formulation or dispersion comprising: (a) a hot-melt polyamide resin; (b) a pigment; (c) an organic solvent; and (d) a viscosity stabilizing, resolubility promoting, water soluble compound selected from the group consisting of base, aminoalcohol, acid, and aminoacid.

2 (cancelled).

3 (currently amended). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the pigment is selected from the group consisting of monoazo yellow, monoarylide yellow, diarylide yellow, naphthol red, rubine red, lithol rubine, phthalocyanine blue and carbon black.

4 (original). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, n-propanol, iso-propanol, butanol and propyl acetate.

5 (original). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the amount of the water soluble compound is about 0.01 to 5.0% by weight of the total weight of the formulation or dispersion.

6 (currently amended). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the amount of the water soluble compound is about 0.1% to 1.0% by weight of the total weight of the formulation or dispersion.

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7 (previously presented). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the base is an inorganic or organic base.

8 (original). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 7, wherein the inorganic base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and ammonium hydroxide.

9 (original). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 7, wherein the organic base is an amine.

10 (previously presented). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 9, wherein the amine is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, triethanolamine, dimethylethanolamine and diethylenetriamine.

11 (original). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the aminoalcohol is selected from the group consisting of aminopropanol, aminoethylpropanediol, aminobutanol, diethylaminoethanol and dimethylaminopropanol.

12 (original). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 1, wherein the acid is organic or inorganic acid.

13 (currently amended). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 12, wherein the inorganic acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and sulfuric acid.

14 (original). The ink formulation or dispersion of claim 12, wherein the organic acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, and paraaminobenzoic acid.

15 (currently amended). A method of increasing the stability and resolubility of a non-aqueous laminating ink[s] formulation[s] or dispersion[s] containing (a) a hot-melt polyamide resin; (b) a pigment; and (c) an organic solvent comprising adding to said formulation or dispersion a water-

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soluble compound selected from the group consisting of base, aminoalcohol, acid, and aminoacid.

16 (cancelled).

17 (original). The method of claim 15, wherein the pigment is selected from the group consisting of monoazo yellow, monoarylide yellow, diarylide yellow, naphthol red, rubine red, lithol rubine, phthalocyanine blue and carbon black.

18 (original). The method of claim 15, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of n-propanol, iso-propanol, butanol, ethanol and propyl acetate.

19 (original). The method of claim 15, wherein the amount of the water soluble compound is about 0.01% to 5.0% by weight of the total weight of the formulation or dispersion.

20 (original). The method of claim 15, wherein the amount of the water soluble compound is about 0.1 to 1.0% by weight of the total weight of the formulation or dispersion.

21 (original). The method of claim 15, wherein the base is inorganic or organic base.

22 (original). The method of claim 21, wherein the inorganic base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and ammonium hydroxide.

23 (original). The method of claim 21, wherein the organic base is amine or aminoalcohol.

24 (original). The method of claim 23, wherein the amine is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, triethanolamine, dimethylethanolamine and diethylenetriamine.

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25 (original). The method of claim 15, wherein the aminoalcohol is selected from the group consisting of aminopropanol, aminoethylpropanediol, aminobutanol, diethylaminoethanol and dimethylaminopropanol.

26 (original). The method of claim 15, wherein the acid is organic or inorganic acid.

27 (original). The method of claim 26, wherein the inorganic acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and sulfuric acid.

28 (original). The method of claim 26, wherein the organic acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid and paraaminobenzoic acid.

29 (currently amended). An improved non-aqueous laminating ink formulation or dispersion comprising: (a) a hot-melt polyamide resin; (b) a pigment; (c) an organic solvent; wherein the improvement is (d) a viscosity stabilizing, resolubility promoting water soluble compound selected from the group consisting of base, aminoalcohol, acid and aminoacid.

30 (currently amended). A non-aqueous laminating ink formulation or dispersion comprising: (a) a hot-melt polyamide resin; (b) a pigment selected from the group consisting of monoazo yellow, monoarylide yellow, diarylide yellow, naphthol red, rubine red, lithol rubine, phthalocyanine blue and carbon black; (c) an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of ethanol, n-propanol, iso-propanol, butanol and propyl acetate; and (d) a viscosity stabilizing, resolubility promoting, water-soluble compound selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, monoethanolamine, triethanolamine, dimethylethanolamine, diethylenetriamine, aminopropanol, aminoethylpropanediol, aminobutanol, diethylaminoethanol, dimethylaminopropanol, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and sulfuric acid; and wherein water is excluded.